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**William F. Bater Sentenced
For Federal Firearms Charge**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **William F. Bater**, age 44, formerly of Bridgton, Maine and Bridgewater, Massachusetts, was sentenced in U.S. District Court to 17 years in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. Mr. Bater was found guilty by a federal jury on May 29, 2008, of being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was indicted by a federal grand jury on September 18, 2007.

The Indictment alleged that Mr. Bater possessed a Remington Model 742, .308 caliber rifle after having been convicted of five felony offenses including, breaking and entering in the daytime in Massachusetts in 1982 and 1989, burglary of a dwelling in Florida in 1983, burglary in Utah in 1984, and concealment of a stolen firearm in Massachusetts in 1993. According to Court records, the defendant acquired the rifle by having another individual purchase it for him in what is commonly referred to as a "straw purchase." Because of his multiple prior felony convictions, Mr. Bater was subject to enhanced sentencing as an Armed Career Criminal.

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United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Maine State Police, the Bridgton Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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